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JOURNAL

OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

Tuesday - 20 April 1971

1. (Internal Use Only - JMM) Cord Meyer, ADDP, called to say that he had just heard from Assistant Secretary Abshire's office, in State, that according to John Marks, of Senator Case's (R., N. Y.) office, Case has scheduled closed hearings on legislation regarding RFE and RL for 24 May and that Case "likes the bill and wants to sponsor it."

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2. (Confidential - JMM) Representative Ogden Reid (R., N. Y.) visited Headquarters for a breakfast meeting with the Director, Cord Meyer, [REDACTED] and John Maury. In discussing the future of Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty, Mr. Reid said he hoped any legislation establishing a private "umbrella" to cover these would be broad enough to take care of other types of informational and cultural exchanges in the future. He said he was seeing Senator Case today and thought Senator Case could probably be persuaded to support the kind of solution we have in mind. Mr. Reid saw no insurmountable difficulties in passing the necessary legislation provided we could get the support of the key leadership in both Houses.

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Mr. [REDACTED] provided a rundown on the current Middle East situation and the Director commented on the Soviet role in the Middle East and Soviet foreign and defense policies generally.

Mr. Reid expressed interest in some recent New York Times stories regarding proposals attributed to General Abrams for a revived and expanded "Phoenix" type program. The Director agreed that an Agency officer would look into this and brief Reid in the near future.

3. (Secret - JMM) Met with Russ Blandford, Chief Counsel, House Armed Services Committee, whom I briefed on Soviet ICBM deployment, ABM developments; ChiCom nuclear facilities; surface-to-air installations in Egypt; Soviet "Salyut" launch.

4. (Confidential - JMM) Met with Representative Charles Bennett (D., Fla.) in response to his letter to the Director recommending forceful public denials that the Agency was not in any way implicated in assassination activity. Later, I discussed the same problem with Russ Blandford. See Memo for Record for details.

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5. (Secret - JMM) Met with Bill Woodruff, Counsel, Senate Appropriations Committee, whom I briefed on Soviet ICBM deployment, ABM developments; ChiCom nuclear facilities; surface-to-air installations in Egypt; and Soviet "Salyut" launch.

I explained to Woodruff our plans for a solution to Radio Free Europe and Radio Liberty. He said he could not predict Senator Ellender's reaction to such a proposal, but at least initially it would probably be unfavorable. Woodruff offered his personal advice that the Agency should not use up its limited capital with Senator Ellender in order to save the Radios--that we 'might need it more later.'

6. (Secret - JMM) Talked to Mr. Pat Holt, Senate Foreign Relations Committee staff, who said they would like to schedule the Director to appear before Senator Frank Church's Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere Affairs to discuss U.S. policies and programs in Brazil on Tuesday or Wednesday, 4 or 5 May. Holt said that they would particularly like to make sure that [REDACTED] is "in the vicinity." He said he considered [REDACTED] the outstanding U.S. expert on Brazil and even if he didn't actually testify the Subcommittee would like to have him available so the Director could refer questions to him if he so desired. I told Holt we wanted to be helpful but this was something we just couldn't do. As an alternative, I suggested he provide us with questions before the hearing on which we would be sure to get the benefit of any input [REDACTED] could provide before appearing. Holt said he thought this might work if we would be sure our answers to these questions were in no way coordinated with State or Defense. I said he could be sure our answers would be our own. He said he would try to get the Committee's approval in arranging this but could not make any commitment in advance.

7. (Confidential - JMM) Called John Martiny, House Post Office and Civil Service Committee staff, to say that we had sent over a letter to Chairman Hanley, Employee Benefits Subcommittee, indicating our concern about legislation before his Subcommittee similar to the Ervin bill and suggesting that he note this letter and let us know when it would be possible for us to meet with him (Martiny) and Chairman Hanley to discuss our problem in more detail. He said hearings were already scheduled and he would be in touch with us shortly.

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9. (Confidential - JGO) Talked to Mr. Emmanuel Perch, Office of Legislative Relief, Department of Army. Mr. Perch is the action officer of [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] introduced in the House by Representative Henderson (D., N. Car.) on 17 March 1971. Mr. Perch told me the bill has just been received and no action taken as yet but that he will call if any assistance or coordination is required in preparing the Department of Army report. He expressed his appreciation for the call and the Agency's offer of assistance and said he would keep me advised on the progress of the bill. See Journal items of 19 March and 16 April.

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Legislative Counsel

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cc:
ER
O/DDCI
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. [REDACTED]
Mr. Houston
Mr. Goodwin
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